

AFGHANISTAN: A DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

by

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(301) 763-4221

January 1988

SUMMARY

Overview

Afghanistan, with a current population of 14,184,000, is one of only a handful of countries in the world with a smaller population in 1987 than in 1980. This situation has occurred because of the extremely high volume of refugee movement from Afghanistan to Iran and Pakistan. More persons (over 4 million) fled Afghanistan during the 1979 to 1986 period than the total population of Norway.

Demographically, Afghanistan has the unenviable distinction of ranking among the "top" (or bottom) 10 countries of the world along several dimensions. For example, among all the world's countries in the 1980's, Afghanistan had:

- One of the 10 highest crude death rates.
- One of the 10 lowest life expectancies at birth.
- One of the 10 lowest growth rates.
- One of the 10 highest infant mortality rates.
- One of the 10 highest net emigration rates.
- One of the 10 highest crude birth rates.
- One of the 10 lowest percentages of the population ages 65 years and over.

This report details the projected demographic picture of the population of Afghanistan, specifically covering the components of population change; namely, fertility, mortality, and migration. In addition, a brief view of selected social and economic conditions is presented. The reader should bear in mind that the results depicted are the product of an analysis of all available demographic information, plus various assumptions as to how the separate components of population change may vary in the future. Particular attention should be given to the assumptions regarding the refugee population. These assumptions are meant to be illustrative as to how the demography of Afghanistan would be affected by alternative refugee movement trends, rather than to be predictive. Some of the more notable outcomes of the component projections are detailed below.

Population Size

To put Afghanistan's population size and area into perspective, the population of the total country is approximately that of the 1980 population of Texas and occupies an area slightly smaller than Texas. Afghanistan ranks 50th among the countries of the world in total population size. Even though Afghanistan has a very high fertility rate, some of the consequences of the refugee movement on the total population size of the country are listed below:

- A baby born in Africa in 1960-65.
- A person in the United States that is 35 years of age.

As noted earlier, Afghanistan has one of the highest infant mortality rates in the world. One of every six babies born in Afghanistan will die before reaching its first birthday. Since Afghan women bear an average of seven children, this implies that the average Afghan woman experiences the death of a child in infancy. Although Afghanistan's population size and area are approximately equal to those of Texas, consider the following comparisons for 1986:

- 36 times as many infant deaths occurred in Afghanistan than in Texas, or 311 infants died each day in Afghanistan; 9 per day, in Texas.
- Afghanistan has nearly 3 times as many infant deaths as the entire United States, although the U.S. has about 16 times as many people as Afghanistan.

Migration

Internal migration in Afghanistan has traditionally been slight. In 1972-73, 12 out of every 13 native-born Afghans were living in their province of birth. Since the Soviet invasion, this situation has greatly changed, and large numbers of persons have been displaced within the country.

International migration is, of course, dominated by the movement of refugees to Pakistan and Iran. If the sum of the present population of Afghanistan plus the refugee population is taken as the total Afghan population, then approximately one out of every four persons is living outside the country. The movement of refugees, while continuing to the present, has slowed considerably since 1982. Refugees in Pakistan constitute roughly two-thirds of the total refugees.

Education

Literacy in Afghanistan, as in many developing countries, is low. In 1979, less than half of the population ages 10 years and over could read and write. The percentage of males who are literate greatly exceeds the percent literate for females. The urban/rural differential in literacy is also present in Afghanistan, but is less than the observed sex differential. Although literacy levels are low, the available data for 1972-73 and 1979 show improvement in the percent literate in each population subgroup.

PREFACE

This report is part of a series of CIR Staff Papers issued by the Center for International Research, U.S. Bureau of the Census. It was prepared in the Asia, Europe, North America, and Oceania Branch, under the supervision of Arjun Adlakha, Chief. Sylvia Quick, Assistant Division Chief, and Eduardo Arriaga, Special Assistant for International Demographic Methods, provided assistance and valuable suggestions during the preparation of this report.

We are grateful to our statistical assistants Vera V. Harris-Bourne, Donna V. Hart-Spriggs, Claire R. Warrick and Connie R. Woodard, for verifying the calculations and assisting in the preparation of the tables. We are also grateful to John R. Gibson for assisting in the preparation of the charts and to Brenda S. Williams and Sheri A. Williams for typing the report.

Users of this report are invited to send their comments to Arjun Adlakha, Chief, Asia, Europe, North America, and Oceania Branch, Center for International Research, Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233; telephone (301) 763-4221.

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INTRODUCTION

This study of selected demographic and social characteristics of the population of Afghanistan incorporates information from available sources and presents estimated and projected population parameters. Tables on population size and estimates of fertility, mortality, and migration are included. Marital status, health, urbanization, and education variables are also discussed.

Specific tables included cover annual estimates of total population and growth rates beginning in 1950. A smoothed age and sex distribution of the 1979 census is given, plus projected age and sex distributions to 2010.

Fertility measures shown in the report include crude birth rates and age-specific fertility rates. Mortality is shown in terms of crude death rates, life expectancies at birth, infant mortality rates, and selected life table functions, by age and sex. Migration measures include estimated and projected totals of the refugee population, plus lifetime internal migration estimates by age.

Selected characteristics are examined for urban and rural areas. These include trends in literacy and enrollment in schools and distributions of the population by marital status. The level of urbanization for the country and for each province is shown. Finally, summary statistics are presented for the total country and for provinces on various health indicators of the population.

SOURCES AND QUALITY OF DATA

Data for the report were obtained primarily from the June 15 to July 4, 1979 population census, the 1972-73 National Demographic and Family Guidance Survey, and official statistical publications from the Afghanistan Central Statistics Office. Other data incorporated in the report include reported refugees registered in camps and total refugee estimates of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Serious difficulties arose in Afghanistan's attempt to conduct its first population census. The preliminary report states that "due to circumstantial [sic] problems on the field, which loomed up, as a result of negative factors appearing in the course of political and economic development of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan created by domestic and foreign reaction, the census enumeration could not be implemented with complete census and failed to cover the entire population of the country." As a result, only 55 to 60 percent of the settled population was estimated to have been enumerated.

During the preliminary phase of the census operation, complete coverage of the country was achieved using the household prelisting forms. From this process, information on total households and number of persons in each household was obtained. Using information collected in the preliminary phase, the Central Statistics Office was able, through the use of "scientific techniques," to derive estimates for the settled population in areas which remained uncovered during the enumeration. Needless to say, the quality of the resultant statistics must be regarded as limited, at best.

As a rule, special problems also arise when the attempt is made to enumerate the nomadic population of a country. Afghanistan was no exception to this

ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS

Since Afghanistan has taken only one population census, the difficulty of estimating past and future population size greatly exceeds that for countries having a long census-taking history. The incomplete coverage of the census and the upheaval caused by the war further compound the problem of deriving population estimates in which strong confidence can be placed. Projecting an accurate demographic situation in Afghanistan is thus complicated by the dependency of the results on both base population estimates of uncertain quality plus assumptions regarding the components of population change, most notably the future migration of the refugee population.

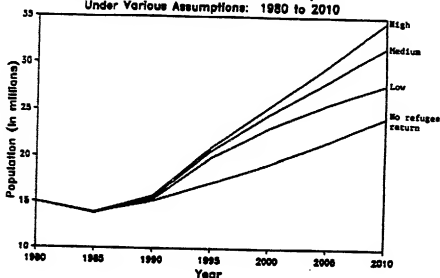
Population Size

Afghanistan's 1987 midyear population ranked 50th in terms of total population size. During the 30-year period beginning after World War II until the mid-1970's, Afghanistan's total population doubled. This growth was typical of many developing countries, where high fertility combined with declining mortality produced increasing population growth rates. If refugees return to Afghanistan as projected in the Center for International Research (CIR) projections, then the population is expected to double again in the next 20 years (table 1). Perhaps the most remarkable feature of the change in population size for Afghanistan is that the total actually declined from midyear 1979 to 1982 due to the large emigration of refugees to Pakistan and Iran (figure 1). The present population of the country is less than that enumerated in 1979. The refugee movement more than cancelled out the natural population increase resulting from the excess of births over deaths. Although persons continued leaving Afghanistan after 1982, the total net population change each year ceased

The fifth projection series also accepted the medium fertility series, while the migration component assumed that the refugee population does not return to Afghanistan throughout the projection period.

Figure 2 presents the projected total population of Afghanistan under four of the five projection series. Should the refugee population remain in Pakistan and Iran, the population is still expected to grow through the natural increase that results from the high fertility of the Afghan population. If the current situation in the country is resolved in such a way as to encourage the return of the refugee population, then Afghanistan must be prepared to absorb a rapid increase in the population. That is, the influx of such a large number of persons returning to Afghanistan will exert similar pressure on Afghanistan as the present movement out of the country has placed on Pakistan.

Figure 2. Total Population Projections
Under Various Assumptions: 1980 to 2010



Notes: Each of the high, medium, and low fertility series assumes that 15 percent of the remaining refugee population returns to Afghanistan each year from 1990 to 2010. The "no refugee return" series assumes the same fertility levels as the medium projection series.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, unpublished component population projections, selected series.

Since the fertility information on Afghanistan is limited, it is difficult to assess past trends or to project the future course of fertility in the country. Nonetheless, do know that fertility in 1979 was high (an estimated total fertility rate of 7.1 births per woman, see table 3) and that the inadequacy of programs aimed at fertility reduction will most likely imply that the country will be characterized by relatively high fertility in the future. Afghanistan does consider the natural growth of its population to be too high, and Afghanistan's population policy may result in lowered fertility rates, primarily through the integration of family planning within maternal and child health programs.

Data from the analysis of the 1979 census indicate that there are urban and rural differences in the level of fertility (table 3). Urban women exhibit lower fertility rates than rural women in each age group, with urban women bearing an average of 5.8 children; rural women an average of 7.3. These data illustrate the impact of urbanization on fertility and suggest that as Afghanistan's population becomes increasingly urban, a corresponding decline in the country's total fertility rate may be observed.

The future path of the total fertility rates (TFRs) in Afghanistan (table 4 and figure 3), as noted above, is uncertain. The widening range of rates over time as estimated by the U.S. Bureau of the Census in the high, medium, and low projection series reflects this uncertainty. The increasing width of the range of projected rates from the three series is characteristic of demographic projections, or for that matter, of any attempt to illustrate the future. The procedures used to estimate and project the TFRs for Afghanistan are discussed in the Fertility Section of the Technical Appendix.

In 1979, Afghanistan was one of the few countries in the world where life expectancy at birth was estimated to be higher for males than for females. This situation is not projected to change until after 2010.

While general improvement in mortality is the norm, the war in Afghanistan has, of course, had a negative impact on the mortality conditions in the country. In the absence of adequate casualty data, the projected level of life expectancy was assumed to remain unchanged from 1979 to 1985, thus implicitly accounting for the war's demographic impact on mortality.

Vital Rates

Although both crude birth and death rates are projected to decline in the future, there is expected to be little change in the rate of natural increase (table 6). This indicates that while some reduction in fertility is anticipated in the coming years, a concomitant improvement in mortality will effectively negate any potential growth rate reduction through fertility decline.

The similar declines in fertility and mortality produce the flat trend in the rate of natural increase revealed in figure 4. In many developing countries, the observed mortality decline exceeded the decline in fertility, producing an increasing trend in the rate of natural increase. Such trends are responsible for the well-known "population explosion" experienced in the developing countries of the world. In Afghanistan, mortality is not expected to decline rapidly enough to increase the already high rate of natural increase in the future. The government has identified the country's natural increase rate as too high and has introduced programs to influence this rate.

Considering the population living in Afghanistan plus the refugees in Pakistan and Iran as the total Afghan population implies that one out of four Afghans presently lives outside Afghanistan. The majority of the refugee movement had occurred by the end of 1982, with the flow of refugees continuing thereafter, but at a lower level.

Predicting the future of the refugee population requires that the following questions be answered. Will the outward flow of refugees increase or decrease and by how much? Will the refugees return to Afghanistan (and if so, when, at what rate of return and over what period of time)? Clearly, such questions are unanswerable by either demographers or other analysts. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the U.S. Bureau of the Census projected the total population of the refugees under selected assumptions in order to illustrate the impact of the various alternatives on the population. The effect on total population was witnessed earlier (figure 2). For further details on the estimates and projection assumptions of the refugee population, see the International Migration Section of the Technical Appendix. Detailed totals of the refugees and the population living in Afghanistan under selected projection series are shown in appendix table A-10. Projected age and sex distributions under the medium series projection (with the return of Afghan refugees beginning in 1990) are given in appendix tables A-11 through A-16.

URBAN POPULATION

The population of Afghanistan is predominantly rural. In 1979, 15.1 percent of the settled population of the country was reported to be living in urban areas (table 8). If the nomadic population of the country is included in the rural population, then the percent urban is reduced to 12.7 percent, implying that approximately seven out of every eight people in Afghanistan live in rural areas. Provincial variations in the percent urban for the settled population were large in 1979, ranging from a low of 0.6 percent in Paktika Province to a high of 49.3 percent in Kabul Province.

In the 1979 census, 63 urban areas were identified. These areas met unspecified requirements as to size and urban features (although 1,000 persons is apparently the minimum acceptable size). These 63 areas represented a subset of the 86 areas recognized, by the Afghanistan Central Bureau for Leading Local Organs, as urban and deserving of municipal status. The 23 areas rejected as urban during the data processing stage of the census were considered to be "too small and lacking the required urban features" to warrant classification as urban. Of the 63 urban places, Kabul is by far the largest. Nearly half of the total urban population of the country lived in the capital city (table 9).

As noted in the Migration Section, the Soviet invasion has caused a considerable amount of redistribution of the population. Exactly how the geographic distribution of the population has been altered by the political events is indeterminable at present, and beyond the scope of the present study.

MARITAL STATUS

The ages at which people marry in part influence the total number of children born. A higher median age at marriage has a dampening effect on total fertility, while a low average age at marriage tends to be associated with high fertility. Quartiles showing the ages at which persons marry reveal a sex differential in the median age at marriage by urban/rural residence of between 5 and 6 years (table 10). The data from the 1972-73 Afghanistan National Demographic and Family Guidance Survey also demonstrate the earlier age at marriage of both males and females in rural areas compared to persons living in urban areas. For example, while half of all urban females are estimated to be married by age 18.7 years, in rural areas the age by which half the female population has married is 16.4 years.

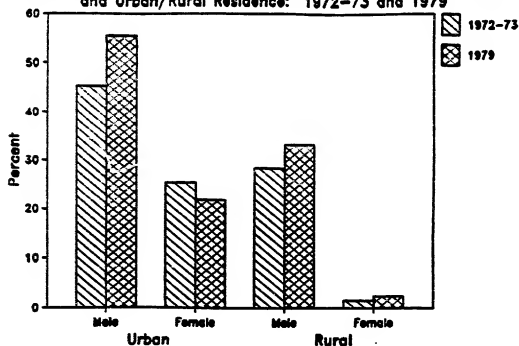
The urban/rural differentials in the age at which various percentages of the population is ever-married contribute to explaining the differences in total fertility rates by type of residence. However, while rural women may marry earlier than urban women, providing rural women with more years of exposure to childbearing than urban women, urban/rural differences in the percent ever-married disappear by age group 30 to 34 years (figure 5). This demonstrates the universality of marriage in Afghanistan.

While the percentage of women ever-married generally increases with age, the percentage of the female population in Afghanistan that is currently married begins declining after age 30-34 years in urban areas, and 25-29 years in rural areas (table 11). This decline reflects the increasing percentage of the

EDUCATION

Improvements in the educational attainment of a population, like increases in urbanization and age at first marriage, are associated with declines in fertility rates. Available data from the 1972-73 National Demographic and Family Guidance Survey and the 1979 population census reveal some increases in the percentage of the total school-age population enrolled in school during the period (tables 12 and 13). Since 1972-73 information covered the population ages 6 to 24 years, while the 1979 data included persons ages 5 to 24 years, figure 6 compares the urban/rural and male/female differences in the percentage of the population enrolled in school for persons ages 10 to 24 years.

Figure 6. Percent Enrolled in School, by Sex and Urban/Rural Residence: 1972-73 and 1979



Note: Data refer to the population ages 10 to 24 years.

Source: Tables 12 and 13.

The percentage of the Afghan population that is literate generally decreases with increasing age. Thus, while three-fourths of urban males ages 10 to 14 years were literate in 1979, less than one-half of urban males ages 35 to 44 years and less than one-half of urban males ages 55 to 64 years could read and write. (See appendix tables A-6 through A-8 for detailed literacy data by age and urban/rural residence.)

Although education data for the recent years are not available on the percent enrolled or literate, the present government has instituted a large adult literacy campaign and programs exist to export Afghan students for study in the Soviet Union. Reliable information on the measurable progress made by these efforts is unavailable, although reports indicate that success has been quite limited.

HEALTH

The health situation in Afghanistan, as should have been clearly inferred from the mortality discussion earlier, is poor. Official statistics available from 1979-80 to 1981-82 on selected health indicators shed some light on the progress of the government toward providing adequate health facilities for the population (table 15).

During the period 1979 to 1982 the number of hospital beds increased by 11 to 12 percent per year. Also, the number of persons per hospital bed declined during this period. These trends suggest improvement in the availability of health facilities to the population. Note that the decline in persons per hospital bed would have occurred even if there had been no population loss due to refugee movement. Still, comparing the number of persons per hospital bed in 1981-82 (2,016) with the corresponding number of persons (185) for a place of similar population size and density (Texas) emphasizes the low level of provision of health care. Even comparing this statistic for Afghanistan with the 1976 data of another developing country of similar size and density (Iraq) shows that Afghanistan has greatly deficient health care coverage. (Iraq had an estimated 492 persons per hospital bed in 1976). For selected 1981-82 health indicators, by province, based on official data, as well as provincial population and education indicators, see appendix table A-9.

Current health data are not available, but a recent report (U.S. Department of State, 1986) states, "The length of the conflict and the disruption of Afghanistan's rudimentary health infrastructure have contributed to an apparent increase in the incidence of disease. Most doctors have fled." The official data on the number of physicians through 1982 do not support the statement regarding doctors,

Table 1. Total Midyear Population Estimates and Period Growth Rates: 1950 to 2010
(Population in thousands, growth rate in percent)

| Year | Population | Average annual growth rate | Year | Population | Average annual growth rate |
|-------------|------------|----------------------------------|-------------|------------|----------------------------------|
| Estimates | | | Projections | | |
| 1950 | 8,150 | 1.74 | 1981 | 14,085 | -3.20 |
| 1955 | 8,891 | 2.01 | 1982 | 13,642 | 0.45 |
| 1960 | 9,829 | 2.25 | 1983 | 13,703 | 0.83 |
| 1965 | 10,998 | 2.45 | 1984 | 13,817 | 0.49 |
| 1970 | 12,431 | 2.57 | 1985 | 13,886 | 0.68 |
| 1975 | 14,132 | 2.58 | 1986 | 13,981 | 1.44 |
| 1976 | 14,501 | 2.58 | 1987 | 14,184 | 2.07 |
| 1977 | 14,880 | 2.58 | 1988 | 14,481 | 2.35 |
| 1978 | 15,269 | 1.86 | 1989 | 14,825 | 5.04 |
| Projections | | | 1990 | 15,592 | 5.53 |
| | | | 1995 | 20,561 | 3.51 |
| 1979 | 15,556 | -3.74 | 2000 | 24,501 | 2.76 |
| 1980 | 14,985 | -6.19 | 2005 | 28,129 | 2.41 |
| | | | 2010 | 31,736 | (X) |

X - Not applicable.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, unpublished component population projections, medium series.

Table 3. Estimated Age-Specific Fertility Rates
Per 1,000 Women, by Urban/Rural Residence:
1978-79

| Age | Total | Urban | Rural |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| 15 to 19 years | 125 | 118 | 126 |
| 20 to 24 years | 288 | 255 | 294 |
| 25 to 29 years | 316 | 267 | 325 |
| 30 to 34 years | 268 | 235 | 273 |
| 35 to 39 years | 217 | 171 | 225 |
| 40 to 44 years | 130 | 75 | 140 |
| 45 to 49 years | 72 | 40 | 78 |
| Total fertility rate (per woman) | 7.08 | 5.80 | 7.31 |

Notes: Data refer to the settled population only. Urban initially referred to the 86 areas recognized by the Central Bureau for Leading Local Organs as urban and deserving of municipal status, but during processing of the census results 23 of these areas were determined to be "too small and lacking the required urban features" to warrant classification as urban. Hence, urban was operationally defined as 63 areas recognized as such by the Central Bureau for Leading Local Organs. These areas met unspecified requirements as to size and urban features.

Source: Afghanistan Central Statistics Office, 1981, Preliminary Results of the First Afghan Population Census, Publication No. 1, Demographic Statistics, Kabul, annex table 4.

Table 5. Estimated and Projected Expectation of Life at Birth and Infant Mortality Rates, by Sex: 1979 to 2010

| Year | Expectation of life at birth | | | Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births) | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------|------|--------|---|------|--------|
| | Both sexes | Male | Female | Both sexes | Male | Female |
| Estimate | | | | | | |
| 1979 | 40.8 | 41.6 | 39.9 | 183 | 189 | 176 |
| Projections | | | | | | |
| 1980 | 40.8 | 41.6 | 39.9 | 183 | 189 | 176 |
| 1985 | 40.9 | 41.7 | 40.0 | 183 | 189 | 176 |
| 1990 | 43.1 | 43.8 | 42.3 | 171 | 178 | 164 |
| 1995 | 45.4 | 46.1 | 44.8 | 160 | 166 | 153 |
| 2000 | 47.9 | 48.4 | 47.4 | 148 | 154 | 142 |
| 2005 | 50.5 | 50.7 | 50.2 | 137 | 142 | 131 |
| 2010 | 53.1 | 53.1 | 53.1 | 126 | 131 | 120 |

Source: Estimated and projected at the U.S. Bureau of the Census based on estimated life tables derived from adjusted age-specific death rates for 1979, assumed constant mortality to 1985, and logistic interpolation between the 1985 level of life expectancy and assumed levels for 2000 (for males) and 2010 (for females). For further discussion, see the Mortality section of the Technical Appendix.

Table 7. Percentage of Native-Born Population Born Outside Province of Current Residence, by Age and Sex: 1972-73

| Age | Both sexes | Male | Female |
|-------------------|---------------|------|--------|
| Total, all ages | 7.7 | 8.2 | 7.2 |
| 0 to 9 years | 4.0 | 4.1 | 4.0 |
| 10 to 14 years | 6.0 | 6.4 | 5.6 |
| 15 to 19 years | 8.0 | 8.2 | 7.8 |
| 20 to 24 years | 9.6 | 9.9 | 9.2 |
| 25 to 29 years | 10.0 | 10.7 | 9.3 |
| 30 to 34 years | 10.0 | 10.1 | 10.0 |
| 35 to 39 years | 11.4 | 12.0 | 10.7 |
| 40 to 44 years | 11.7 | 12.6 | 10.5 |
| 45 to 49 years | 11.5 | 12.7 | 9.9 |
| 50 to 54 years | 11.8 | 13.3 | 10.1 |
| 55 to 59 years | 10.4 | 10.4 | 10.3 |
| 60 to 64 years | 11.9 | 12.7 | 10.8 |
| 65 to 69 years | 10.8 | 10.2 | 11.7 |
| 70 to 74 years | 12.4 | 13.1 | 11.3 |
| 75 years and over | 17.1 | 15.2 | 20.9 |
| Unknown age | 25.1 | 27.1 | 21.0 |

Note: Data refer to the settled population only.

Source: Afghanistan Central Statistics Office, 1975, National Demographic and Family Guidance Survey of the Settled Population of Afghanistan, Vol. 3, Tables, Kabul, tables 13.1.1, 13.1.2, and 13.1.3.

Table 9. Population of Urban Places, by Size and Size Class: 1979

| Size class | Number of cities | Name of city | Population | |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------|---------|
| | | | Total | Percent |
| Total urban areas | 63 | All urban places | 1,976,738 | 100.0 |
| 500,000 and over | 1 | Kabul | 913,164 | 46.2 |
| 100,000 to 499,999 | 3 | Kandahar | 178,409 | 9.0 |
| | | Herat | 140,323 | 7.1 |
| | | Mazare Sharif | 103,372 | 5.2 |
| 50,000 to 99,999 | 2 | Jalal Abad | 53,915 | 2.7 |
| | | Kunduz | 53,251 | 2.7 |
| 25,000 to 49,999 | 6 | Baghlan | 39,228 | 2.0 |
| | | Maimana | 38,251 | 1.9 |
| | | Pule Khomri | 31,101 | 1.6 |
| | | Ghazni | 30,425 | 1.5 |
| | | Kholm | 28,078 | 1.4 |
| | | Khan Abad | 26,803 | 1.4 |
| 10,000 to 24,999 | 11 | Charikar | 22,424 | 1.1 |
| | | Lashkargah | 21,600 | 1.1 |
| | | Taldoan | 19,926 | 1.0 |
| | | Sheberghan | 18,995 | 1.0 |
| | | Farah | 18,797 | 1.0 |
| | | Sare Pul | 15,639 | 0.8 |
| | | Andkhoy | 13,137 | 0.7 |
| | | Hazrate Eman | 12,655 | 0.6 |
| | | Ghoryan | 12,404 | 0.6 |
| | | Qalae Zal | 11,632 | 0.6 |
| | | Chahab | 10,827 | 0.5 |
| 5,000 to 9,999 | 14 | | 96,666 | 4.9 |
| 2,500 to 4,999 | 10 | | 37,799 | 1.9 |
| Less than 2,500 | 16 | | 27,858 | 1.4 |

Notes: Data refer to the settled population only. Urban initially referred to the 86 areas recognized by the Central Bureau of Leading Local Organs as urban and deserving of municipal status, but during processing of the census results 23 of these areas were determined to be "too small and lacking the required urban features" to warrant classification as urban. Hence, urban was operationally defined as 63 areas recognized as such by the Central Bureau for Leading Local Organs. These areas met unspecified requirements as to size and urban features.

Source: Afghanistan Central Statistics Office, 1981, Preliminary Results of the First Afghan Population Census, Publication No. 1, Demographic Statistics, Kabul, annex table 2.

Table 11. Percent Married and Percent Widowed for the Population Ages 15 to 49 Years, by Sex and Urban/Rural Residence: 1972-73

| Sex and age | Percent Married | | | Percent Widowed | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|-------|-------|-----------------|-------|-------|
| | Total | Urban | Rural | Total | Urban | Rural |
| MALE | | | | | | |
| Total, 15 to 49 years | 54.1 | 50.0 | 54.8 | 2.4 | 1.2 | 2.6 |
| 15 to 19 years | 7.6 | 4.7 | 8.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| 20 to 24 years | 32.0 | 26.6 | 33.0 | 0.7 | 0.6 | 0.8 |
| 25 to 29 years | 59.2 | 58.9 | 59.2 | 2.3 | 0.5 | 2.6 |
| 30 to 34 years | 79.0 | 76.2 | 79.5 | 3.9 | 2.1 | 4.2 |
| 35 to 39 years | 87.3 | 87.3 | 87.3 | 4.3 | 1.4 | 4.3 |
| 40 to 44 years | 89.8 | 88.7 | 90.0 | 5.6 | 3.5 | 4.4 |
| 45 to 49 years | 90.7 | 93.2 | 90.2 | 6.8 | 2.7 | 6.1 |
| FEMALE | | | | | | |
| Total, 15 to 49 years | 81.6 | 72.3 | 83.4 | 4.6 | 4.1 | 4.7 |
| 15 to 19 years | 49.7 | 33.7 | 53.4 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.4 |
| 20 to 24 years | 87.0 | 73.5 | 89.7 | 1.0 | 0.6 | 1.1 |
| 25 to 29 years | 94.4 | 90.2 | 95.1 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.9 |
| 30 to 34 years | 94.2 | 93.2 | 94.3 | 4.1 | 2.8 | 4.3 |
| 35 to 39 years | 93.4 | 90.7 | 93.8 | 5.5 | 6.9 | 5.3 |
| 40 to 44 years | 85.0 | 86.1 | 84.8 | 13.6 | 11.5 | 13.9 |
| 45 to 49 years | 79.4 | 77.9 | 79.7 | 19.4 | 19.6 | 19.4 |

Notes: Percentages are based on total marital status minus unknowns. Data refer to the settled population only. Urban refers to all provincial centers, as well as to certain other localities judged by the survey team to be urban on the basis of size, functional complexity, and/or legal status.

Source: Afghanistan Central Statistics Office, 1975, National Demographic and Family Guidance Survey of the Settled Population of Afghanistan, Vol. 3, Tables, Kabul, tables 8.1.0, 8.2.0, and 8.3.0.

Table 13. Total Population Ages 5 to 24 Years Enrolled in School, by Age, Sex, and Urban/Rural Residence: 1979
(Population in thousands and may not add to totals due to rounding)

| Area and age | Both sexes | | | Male | | | Female | | |
|---------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | Total population | Enrolled in school | | Total population | Enrolled in school | | Total population | Enrolled in school | |
| | | Number | Percent of total | | Number | Percent of total | | Number | Percent of total |
| ALL AREAS | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, ages 5 to 24 years | 5,538 | 1,172 | 21.2 | 2,696 | 982 | 36.4 | 2,642 | 191 | 6.7 |
| 5 to 9 years | 1,871 | 437 | 23.4 | 948 | 341 | 36.0 | 923 | 96 | 10.4 |
| 10 to 14 years | 1,554 | 481 | 31.0 | 783 | 415 | 53.0 | 771 | 67 | 8.6 |
| 15 to 19 years | 1,204 | 212 | 17.6 | 574 | 187 | 32.6 | 630 | 25 | 4.0 |
| 20 to 24 years | 910 | 42 | 4.6 | 392 | 39 | 9.8 | 518 | 3 | 0.6 |
| URBAN | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, ages 5 to 24 years | 783 | 289 | 36.9 | 392 | 202 | 51.6 | 391 | 87 | 22.2 |
| 5 to 9 years | 278 | 93 | 33.6 | 140 | 62 | 44.5 | 138 | 31 | 22.7 |
| 10 to 14 years | 230 | 115 | 49.9 | 117 | 80 | 68.3 | 113 | 35 | 30.9 |
| 15 to 19 years | 168 | 65 | 39.0 | 86 | 47 | 53.1 | 82 | 18 | 22.1 |
| 20 to 24 years | 107 | 16 | 14.6 | 50 | 13 | 26.3 | 58 | 3 | 4.6 |
| RURAL | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, ages 5 to 24 years | 4,756 | 883 | 18.6 | 2,304 | 779 | 33.8 | 2,451 | 104 | 4.2 |
| 5 to 9 years | 1,593 | 344 | 21.6 | 808 | 279 | 34.5 | 785 | 65 | 8.2 |
| 10 to 14 years | 1,324 | 367 | 27.7 | 666 | 335 | 50.3 | 658 | 32 | 4.8 |
| 15 to 19 years | 1,036 | 147 | 14.2 | 488 | 140 | 28.7 | 548 | 7 | 1.3 |
| 20 to 24 years | 803 | 26 | 3.2 | 342 | 26 | 7.5 | 461 | (2) | 0.1 |

2 - Less than 500 persons.

Source: United Nations, 1985, Demographic Yearbook 1983, New York, table 39.

Table 15. Selected Health Indicators: 1979-80, 1980-81, and 1981-82

| Indicator | 1979-80 | 1980-81 | 1981-82 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Hospitals | 82 | 84 | 83 |
| Hospital beds | 5,419 | 6,139 | 6,875 |
| Persons per hospital bed | 2,817 | 2,366 | 2,016 |
| Physicians | 1,326 | 1,121 | 1,213 |
| Persons per physician | 11,513 | 12,959 | 11,408 |
| Auxiliary health personnel | 5,487 | 3,680 | 4,264 |
| Persons per auxiliary health personnel | 2,782 | 3,947 | 3,250 |
| Pharmacies | 632 | 653 | 633 |
| Pharmacists | 188 | 241 | 245 |

Source: Afghanistan Central Statistics Office, 1983, Statistical Yearbook 1360, Kabul, p. 134.

TECHNICAL APPENDIX

The demographic data used to prepare the projections for the population of Afghanistan and the Afghan refugee population cover the period from 1979 to 1986. Population projections for persons living in Afghanistan and for the separate refugee populations living in Iran and Pakistan are shown for selected years, 1979 to 2050. Fertility and mortality estimates for the Afghan population are based primarily on data from the 1979 census. Fertility and mortality estimates for the refugee populations are based primarily on data for the rural areas of Pakistan. International migration estimates are derived from information on the number of refugees living in Pakistan and Iran as reported for various dates. The sections below on the 1979 census evaluation, fertility, and mortality all pertain to the Afghan population excluding the refugees. The discussion of the estimates of fertility, mortality, and the base populations of refugees in Iran and Pakistan are included in the section on international migration.

CENSUS EVALUATION

Afghanistan conducted its first population census during the period June 15 to July 4, 1979. Although a full census was planned, circumstances in the country resulted in only about 56 percent of the total population being enumerated. The reported "enumerated" settled population for the entire country is thus an inflated figure, derived by the Central Statistics Office of Afghanistan. The method of deriving the inflation factors used is not specified in the census reports, although it is known that differential underenumeration factors were used for urban and rural areas. An additional estimate of 2.5 million nomads is added to the inflated settled population to derive the total country population

1983 UNDY. As noted in the Census Evaluation Section, the age distribution reported in these two sources is different, with the preliminary census distribution appearing to have been smoothed. However, the distribution of births, by age of mother, is identical in both sources. As a result, the age-specific fertility rates (ASFRs) differ in each source. Those ASFRs derived from the preliminary census report imply a total fertility rate (TFR) of 7.1 births per woman while those from the UNDY imply a TFR of 7.6. Nonetheless, the total population and the total number of births in each source is the same, and hence, the implied crude birth rate (CBR) from both sources is 48.1 per 1,000 population.

The birth rate reported in the 1979 census report appears to have resulted from the application of "scientific techniques" (a term used by the Central Statistics Office to describe how the final census distribution was derived). Specifically, the application of stable population analysis techniques at the U.S. Bureau of Census to the census distribution reported in the UNDY results in a crude birth rate estimate close to the value given in the preliminary report.

Another source of fertility information for Afghanistan is the 1972-73 Afghan Demographic Survey. This source shows a TFR of 6.9 based on an analysis of children-ever-born data and data on births in the 12 months prior to the survey. An earlier U.S. Bureau of the Census (1978) report estimates a TFR of 7.7 based on those data.

The base year (1979) ASFR estimates accepted for the component population projections are the official rates based on the adjusted preliminary census results. These rates imply a TFR of 7.1 and are consistent with the base population and the estimates of mortality used in the population projections.

The estimates cited in the preliminary census report are clearly not the direct result of the enumeration. However, no discussion is included on the method of derivation of these estimates. Shalika (1983) reports the 10-percent sample data on deaths from the census yield a crude death rate (CDR) of 8 per 1,000 population (compared with a CDR of 22 reported in the preliminary census report). The sample data on deaths also show considerable age heaping and age exaggeration, as would be expected; whereas the preliminary census report shows a much smoother distribution of deaths, by age, thus strongly providing evidence of the prior adjustment and smoothing of the data shown in the preliminary report.

Using adjusted mortality data from the 1972-73 Afghan Demographic Survey, the U.S. Bureau of the Census (1978) estimated a crude death rate of 30 per 1,000 population and life expectancies at birth of 34 and 36 for males and females, respectively.

Considering all the available information, it was decided to accept the 1979 official mortality estimates as the base level of mortality. Although no documentation is provided in the source detailing the methods used to derive the estimates, the levels and patterns provided do not vary greatly from those that would be obtained if indirect techniques were again applied to the available data.

Life tables, by sex, for 1979 were then derived by accepting the age-specific mortality rates (mx's) from the 1979 preliminary census report for age groups 1 to 4 years through ages 80 years and over. The reported mx's for age under one year, by sex, were adjusted slightly to reproduce the reported infant mortality rate. Separation factors were used from the Coale and Demeny (1966) east region.

fitting a logistic curve, with the same asymptotic values as used previously, but this time with the 1985 life expectancy at birth and the value of life expectancy for 2010. This alternative method produced a crossover of male and female life expectancy at birth more in agreement with historical observation.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION

This section describes the estimates and assumptions made for the migration of the Afghan refugee population to Iran and Pakistan. All other net international migration of the country's population is assumed to be zero. Separate component population projections, by age and sex, were made for the refugee population going to Iran and to Pakistan. Assumptions were also made regarding the return of these populations to Afghanistan.

Data on which the base population and trends of total refugee population size are based are primarily from the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the U.S. Department of State, and an unpublished U.S. Bureau of the Census report, "Detailed Statistics on the Urban and Rural Population of Pakistan: 1950 to 2010." The proportional age and sex distributions and the fertility and mortality assumptions of the refugees in Pakistan and Iran are assumed to be the same. The details are given below.

Fertility

The age-specific fertility rates (ASFRs) of the refugee populations are assumed to remain constant from 1979 through 1983. The total fertility rate (TFR) is assumed to be 7.1 (which is the same as estimated for the population of Afghanistan excluding refugees) during this period. The TFR for 2010 is assumed to be 5.5. This assumption is the same as that used for the report, "Detailed Statistics on the Urban and Rural Population of Pakistan: 1950 to

number of refugees for 1986, and the 1987 total is derived by extrapolating the 1985-86 decline.

Migration Projections, 1988 to 2050

In all projection series, the emigration of refugees to Iran and Pakistan is assumed to be zero after 1987. Varying migration assumptions were made concerning the level and pace of the return migration of refugees to Afghanistan. One series assumes "no return" of the refugee populations. Another series assumes that beginning in 1990, there will be a 15 percent annual return of the refugees remaining in Iran and Pakistan until 2010. The small population remaining in 2011 is assumed to never return to Afghanistan. Finally, an assumption was made that the refugee return will not begin until 1995, but that the remaining refugee population will return at a rate of 20 percent per year until the year 2000.

Table A-1. Enumerated Census Population, by Age and Sex: 1979
(Population in thousands and may not add to totals due to rounding)

| Age | Both sexes | Male | Female |
|-------------------|------------|-------|--------|
| All ages | 8,305 | 6,712 | 6,339 |
| 0 to 4 years | 2,530 | 1,234 | 1,296 |
| 5 to 9 years | 1,852 | 942 | 910 |
| 10 to 14 years | 1,542 | 829 | 713 |
| 15 to 19 years | 1,198 | 673 | 525 |
| 20 to 24 years | 1,038 | 548 | 490 |
| 25 to 29 years | 816 | 385 | 431 |
| 30 to 34 years | 730 | 324 | 406 |
| 35 to 39 years | 623 | 312 | 311 |
| 40 to 44 years | 638 | 302 | 337 |
| 45 to 49 years | 449 | 249 | 200 |
| 50 to 54 years | 511 | 265 | 246 |
| 55 to 59 years | 271 | 166 | 105 |
| 60 to 64 years | 349 | 188 | 161 |
| 65 to 69 years | 133 | 82 | 52 |
| 70 to 74 years | 190 | 105 | 84 |
| 75 to 79 years | 54 | 34 | 20 |
| 80 years and over | 128 | 75 | 53 |

Notes: Figures exclude nomads, estimated at 2.5 million for the census date. Due to political unrest within the country, not more than 55 to 60 percent of the settled population could be enumerated. Estimates for the settled population in areas which were not covered by the enumeration were based on information obtained during the preliminary phases of mapping, cartography, and household prelisting.

Source: United Nations, 1985, Demographic Yearbook 1983, New York, table 7.

Table A-3. Total Population, by Marital Status, Age, and Sex: 1972-73
(Population in thousands. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding)

| Sex and age | Population | | | | | Percent | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| | Total | Single | Married | Widowed | Separated or divorced | Total | Single | Married | Widowed | Separated or divorced |
| MALE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, 10 years and over | 3,720 | 1,736 | 1,842 | 136 | 2 | 100.0 | 46.7 | 49.6 | 3.7 | (2) |
| 10 to 14 years | 703 | 698 | 4 | (2) | (2) | 100.0 | 99.4 | 0.6 | (2) | (2) |
| 15 to 19 years | 550 | 489 | 40 | 1 | (2) | 100.0 | 92.3 | 7.6 | 0.1 | (2) |
| 20 to 24 years | 446 | 300 | 143 | 3 | (2) | 100.0 | 67.3 | 32.0 | 0.7 | (2) |
| 25 to 29 years | 325 | 134 | 206 | 8 | (2) | 100.0 | 38.5 | 59.2 | 2.3 | (2) |
| 30 to 34 years | 325 | 55 | 257 | 13 | 1 | 100.0 | 16.9 | 79.0 | 3.9 | 0.2 |
| 35 to 39 years | 262 | 25 | 246 | 11 | (2) | 100.0 | 8.8 | 87.3 | 3.9 | 0.1 |
| 40 to 44 years | 243 | 14 | 218 | 10 | (2) | 100.0 | 5.7 | 89.8 | 4.3 | 0.2 |
| 45 to 49 years | 184 | 7 | 167 | 10 | (2) | 100.0 | 3.7 | 90.7 | 5.6 | (2) |
| 50 to 54 years | 114 | 3 | 105 | 12 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.7 | 91.5 | 6.8 | (2) |
| 55 to 59 years | 132 | 2 | 109 | 8 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.4 | 91.6 | 7.0 | (2) |
| 60 to 64 years | 207 | 3 | 112 | 17 | (2) | 100.0 | 2.0 | 85.4 | 12.6 | (2) |
| 65 years and over | 207 | 3 | 162 | 41 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.6 | 78.4 | 19.9 | 0.1 |
| Unknown age | 24 | 4 | 18 | 1 | (2) | 100.0 | 16.4 | 77.2 | 6.0 | 0.3 |
| FEMALE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, 10 years and over | 3,033 | 814 | 1,884 | 325 | 5 | 100.0 | 26.9 | 62.2 | 10.7 | 0.2 |
| 10 to 14 years | 572 | 534 | 36 | (2) | (2) | 100.0 | 95.7 | 6.3 | (2) | (2) |
| 15 to 19 years | 410 | 203 | 204 | 2 | 2 | 100.0 | 49.5 | 49.7 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| 20 to 24 years | 381 | 45 | 331 | 4 | (2) | 100.0 | 11.9 | 87.0 | 1.0 | 0.1 |
| 25 to 29 years | 341 | 12 | 321 | 6 | (2) | 100.0 | 3.7 | 94.4 | 1.9 | 0.1 |
| 30 to 34 years | 300 | 5 | 283 | 12 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.6 | 94.2 | 4.1 | 0.1 |
| 35 to 39 years | 233 | 2 | 218 | 13 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.0 | 93.4 | 5.5 | 0.1 |
| 40 to 44 years | 200 | 3 | 169 | 27 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.3 | 88.0 | 13.6 | 0.1 |
| 45 to 49 years | 144 | 1 | 114 | 28 | 1 | 100.0 | 0.8 | 79.4 | 19.4 | 0.7 |
| 50 to 54 years | 150 | 3 | 93 | 53 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.7 | 62.3 | 35.6 | 0.3 |
| 55 to 59 years | 80 | 1 | 44 | 35 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.0 | 55.1 | 43.3 | 0.6 |
| 60 to 64 years | 95 | 1 | 38 | 55 | (2) | 100.0 | 0.9 | 40.7 | 58.2 | 0.3 |
| 65 years and over | 117 | 3 | 28 | 86 | (2) | 100.0 | 2.5 | 23.9 | 73.4 | 0.1 |
| Unknown age | 12 | 1 | 5 | 4 | (2) | 100.0 | 13.1 | 48.9 | 36.3 | 1.6 |

2 - Value is less than one-half of the smallest unit shown in a given category.

Sources: Afghanistan Central Statistics Office, 1975, National Demographic and Family Guidance Survey of the Settled Population of Afghanistan, Vol. 3, Tables, Kabul, table 8.1.0.

Table A-5. Real Population, by Marital Status, Age, and Sex: 1972-73
(Population in thousands. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding)

| Sex and age | Population | | | | | Percent | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|-----------------------|
| | Total | Single | Married | Widowed | Separated or divorced | Total | Single | Married | Widowed | Separated or divorced |
| MALE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, 10 years and over | 3,157 | 1,448 | 1,581 | 124 | 2 | 100.0 | 45.9 | 50.1 | 3.9 | 0.1 |
| 10 to 14 years | 593 | 588 | 4 | (2) | (2) | 100.0 | 99.3 | 0.7 | (2) | (2) |
| 15 to 19 years | 443 | 406 | 36 | 1 | (2) | 100.0 | 91.7 | 8.2 | 0.1 | (2) |
| 20 to 24 years | 374 | 248 | 123 | 3 | (2) | 100.0 | 66.2 | 33.0 | 0.8 | (2) |
| 25 to 29 years | 295 | 113 | 178 | 8 | (2) | 100.0 | 38.2 | 59.2 | 2.6 | (2) |
| 30 to 34 years | 261 | 45 | 223 | 12 | 1 | 100.0 | 16.1 | 79.5 | 4.2 | 0.2 |
| 35 to 39 years | 242 | 20 | 212 | 10 | (2) | 100.0 | 8.4 | 87.3 | 4.3 | 0.1 |
| 40 to 44 years | 209 | 11 | 187 | 9 | (2) | 100.0 | 5.4 | 90.0 | 4.4 | 0.2 |
| 45 to 49 years | 156 | 6 | 141 | 10 | (2) | 100.0 | 3.7 | 90.2 | 6.1 | (2) |
| 50 to 54 years | 155 | 2 | 142 | 11 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.3 | 91.6 | 7.1 | (2) |
| 55 to 59 years | 90 | 1 | 90 | 7 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.1 | 91.8 | 7.1 | (2) |
| 60 to 64 years | 113 | 2 | 95 | 15 | (2) | 100.0 | 2.0 | 89.7 | 13.3 | (2) |
| 65 years and over | 159 | 2 | 159 | 37 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.3 | 77.8 | 20.8 | 0.2 |
| Unknown age | 19 | 3 | 14 | 1 | (2) | 100.0 | 16.4 | 76.2 | 6.9 | 0.4 |
| FEMALE | | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, 10 years and over | 2,563 | 646 | 1,625 | 283 | 5 | 100.0 | 25.3 | 63.5 | 11.0 | 0.2 |
| 10 to 14 years | 477 | 442 | 34 | (2) | (2) | 100.0 | 92.8 | 7.1 | (2) | (2) |
| 15 to 19 years | 353 | 152 | 178 | 1 | 2 | 100.0 | 45.7 | 53.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 |
| 20 to 24 years | 317 | 29 | 284 | 4 | (2) | 100.0 | 9.1 | 69.7 | 1.1 | 0.1 |
| 25 to 29 years | 292 | 9 | 278 | 8 | (2) | 100.0 | 3.0 | 95.1 | 1.9 | (2) |
| 30 to 34 years | 268 | 3 | 243 | 11 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.3 | 94.3 | 4.3 | 0.1 |
| 35 to 39 years | 199 | 2 | 187 | 11 | (2) | 100.0 | 0.8 | 93.8 | 5.3 | 0.1 |
| 40 to 44 years | 171 | 2 | 144 | 24 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.2 | 84.8 | 13.9 | 0.1 |
| 45 to 49 years | 121 | (2) | 97 | 23 | 1 | 100.0 | 0.2 | 79.7 | 19.4 | 0.7 |
| 50 to 54 years | 131 | 2 | 81 | 48 | (2) | 100.0 | 1.6 | 61.8 | 36.2 | 0.3 |
| 55 to 59 years | 68 | 1 | 33 | 29 | (2) | 100.0 | 0.9 | 56.1 | 42.4 | 0.6 |
| 60 to 64 years | 83 | 1 | 33 | 49 | (2) | 100.0 | 0.8 | 40.4 | 58.6 | 0.2 |
| 65 years and over | 101 | 3 | 24 | 75 | (2) | 100.0 | 2.5 | 23.4 | 74.0 | 1.8 |
| Unknown age | 11 | 1 | 4 | 3 | (2) | 100.0 | 12.8 | 49.3 | 36.1 | 1.8 |

2 - Value is less than one-half of the smallest unit shown in a given category.

Sources: Afghanistan Central Statistics Office, 1975, National Demographic and Family Guidance Survey of the Settled Population of Afghanistan, Vol. 3, Tables, Kabul, table B.3.0.

Table A-7. Urban Literate Population, by Age and Sex: 1972-73 and 1979
(Population in thousands. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding)

| Year and age | Both sexes | | | Male | | | Female | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|--------|------------------|---------------------|--------|------------------|---------------------|--------|------------------|
| | Literate population | | | Literate population | | | Literate population | | |
| | Total population | Number | Percent of total | Total population | Number | Percent of total | Total population | Number | Percent of total |
| 1972-73 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, 10 years and over | 1,033 | 313 | 30.3 | 563 | 231 | 41.1 | 470 | 82 | 17.4 |
| 10 to 14 years | 205 | 55 | 26.6 | 110 | 35 | 31.4 | 94 | 20 | 21.0 |
| 15 to 19 years | 164 | 78 | 47.8 | 87 | 51 | 58.1 | 77 | 28 | 36.0 |
| 20 to 24 years | 136 | 54 | 40.0 | 72 | 38 | 52.5 | 63 | 16 | 25.9 |
| 25 to 29 years | 102 | 33 | 32.5 | 54 | 25 | 46.1 | 49 | 8 | 17.4 |
| 30 to 34 years | 86 | 21 | 24.6 | 44 | 17 | 38.8 | 42 | 4 | 9.9 |
| 35 to 39 years | 73 | 17 | 23.6 | 39 | 15 | 38.7 | 34 | 2 | 6.1 |
| 40 to 44 years | 63 | 15 | 23.7 | 34 | 14 | 39.8 | 29 | 1 | 4.7 |
| 45 to 49 years | 51 | 13 | 24.5 | 28 | 12 | 41.0 | 23 | 1 | 3.9 |
| 50 to 54 years | 44 | 9 | 19.7 | 26 | 8 | 31.7 | 19 | 1 | 3.2 |
| 55 to 59 years | 29 | 6 | 19.5 | 16 | 5 | 32.4 | 12 | (7) | 2.2 |
| 60 to 64 years | 31 | 5 | 16.9 | 19 | 5 | 27.2 | 12 | (7) | 0.1 |
| 65 years and over | 43 | 6 | 14.9 | 28 | 6 | 22.3 | 15 | (7) | 1.4 |
| Unknown age | 6 | 1 | 18.8 | 5 | 1 | 23.1 | 1 | (7) | 4.7 |
| 1979 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total, 10 years and over | 1,346 | 570 | 42.4 | 714 | 404 | 56.6 | 632 | 166 | 26.3 |
| 10 to 14 years | 257 | 162 | 63.0 | 138 | 103 | 74.3 | 119 | 60 | 49.9 |
| 15 to 19 years | 204 | 116 | 57.0 | 109 | 75 | 68.6 | 95 | 41 | 43.6 |
| 20 to 24 years | 167 | 84 | 50.5 | 85 | 56 | 66.5 | 82 | 28 | 34.0 |
| 25 to 29 years | 133 | 59 | 44.2 | 66 | 42 | 63.1 | 67 | 17 | 25.4 |
| 30 to 34 years | 110 | 37 | 34.1 | 54 | 29 | 54.6 | 56 | 8 | 14.5 |
| 35 to 44 years | 183 | 51 | 27.9 | 95 | 43 | 45.7 | 88 | 8 | 8.8 |
| 45 to 54 years | 133 | 33 | 24.4 | 74 | 30 | 40.1 | 60 | 3 | 4.8 |
| 55 to 64 years | 86 | 17 | 19.7 | 50 | 16 | 31.6 | 36 | 1 | 3.0 |
| 65 years and over | 74 | 11 | 15.1 | 44 | 11 | 24.0 | 30 | 1 | 2.1 |

Z - Less than 500 persons.

Source: Afghanistan Central Statistics Office, 1975, National Demographic and Family Guidance Survey of the Settled Population of Afghanistan, Vol. 3, Tables, Kabul, tables 9.2.1 through 9.2.3; and United Nations, 1985, Demographic Yearbook 1983, New York, table 36.

Table A-9. Selected Population, Health, and Education Indicators, by Province: 1981-82

| Province | Percent urban | Persons per square kilometer | Student/Teacher ratio | Total number of persons per | | | | | |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| | | | | Student | School | Teacher | Hospital | Hospital bed | Physician |
| Total | 15.8 | 21 | 29.9 | 11 | 3,219 | 331 | 229,130 | 3,191 | 12,453 |
| Kabul | 68.3 | 331 | 29.8 | 5 | 4,729 | 139 | 108,422 | 595 | 1,924 |
| Kapisa | .5 | 140 | 25.8 | 9 | 2,340 | 237 | 262,039 | 26,204 | 65,510 |
| Parwan | 4.8 | 56 | 41.8 | 10 | 2,576 | 402 | 527,987 | 17,600 | 65,998 |
| Mardak | .7 | 33 | 26.0 | 16 | 3,624 | 418 | 150,398 | 10,743 | 50,133 |
| Logar | 2.3 | 49 | 27.1 | 11 | 2,357 | 295 | 226,234 | 11,312 | 45,247 |
| Ghazni | 4.7 | 29 | 27.5 | 16 | 3,779 | 435 | 676,416 | 16,910 | 67,642 |
| Paktia | 2.4 | 53 | 28.8 | 13 | 3,986 | 364 | 126,566 | 5,329 | 28,126 |
| Nangarhar | 7.7 | 103 | 31.9 | 12 | 4,416 | 386 | 195,405 | 1,780 | 8,882 |
| Laghman | 1.3 | 45 | 29.9 | 9 | 3,611 | 284 | 325,010 | 16,251 | 81,253 |
| Kunarha | .8 | 25 | 28.1 | 9 | 1,645 | 253 | 261,604 | 13,080 | 32,701 |
| Badakhshan | 2.0 | 11 | 35.6 | 13 | 2,491 | 456 | 520,620 | 17,354 | 57,847 |
| Takhar | 8.9 | 44 | 29.9 | 17 | 3,420 | 522 | 271,909 | 13,595 | 108,764 |
| Baghlan | 15.3 | 30 | 29.7 | 14 | 3,171 | 402 | 258,461 | 6,892 | 51,692 |
| Kunduz | 19.5 | 74 | 28.5 | 14 | 3,990 | 397 | 194,200 | 10,593 | 116,520 |
| Samangan | 12.7 | 18 | 26.8 | 16 | 2,301 | 423 | 273,864 | 9,129 | 273,864 |
| Balkh | 21.5 | 48 | 29.4 | 12 | 2,835 | 366 | 609,590 | 9,378 | 33,866 |
| Fajzjan | 9.4 | 24 | 40.2 | 15 | 3,802 | 601 | 307,939 | 13,686 | 76,985 |
| Faryab | 9.5 | 27 | 32.2 | 12 | 3,192 | 391 | 304,852 | 12,194 | 50,809 |
| Badghis | 2.3 | 11 | 27.3 | 19 | 3,394 | 532 | 122,173 | 8,145 | 40,724 |
| Herat | 21.7 | 13 | 27.6 | 13 | 3,514 | 358 | 202,056 | 5,051 | 25,257 |
| Farah | 8.1 | 5 | 29.6 | 9 | 2,192 | 265 | 245,474 | 8,182 | 49,095 |
| Nimroz | 6.3 | 3 | 28.2 | 10 | 1,594 | 276 | 108,418 | 5,421 | 15,488 |
| Helmand | 5.2 | 9 | 29.6 | 17 | 3,471 | 496 | 541,508 | 8,331 | 108,302 |
| Kandahar | 32.0 | 13 | 23.1 | 15 | 3,417 | 351 | 597,954 | 2,300 | 37,372 |
| Zabul | 3.3 | 11 | 20.1 | 22 | 2,288 | 438 | 187,612 | 9,381 | 31,269 |
| Urozgan | 1.6 | 16 | 41.5 | 20 | 3,601 | 836 | 464,556 | 23,228 | 92,911 |
| Ghor | .9 | 9 | 22.0 | 18 | 2,281 | 391 | 353,494 | 17,675 | 58,916 |
| Bamyan | 2.8 | 16 | 31.9 | 15 | 2,577 | 474 | 280,859 | 18,724 | 70,215 |
| Paktika | .6 | 13 | 37.6 | 16 | 3,664 | 590 | 128,235 | 10,299 | 64,118 |

Notes: Education data refer to general education. Health indicator data refer to Ministry of Public Health facilities.

Source: Afghanistan Central Statistics Office, 1983, Statistical Yearbook 1360, Kabul, pp. 40-41, 51, 135-136, and 145-146.

Table A-11. Projected Population, by Age and Sex: 1985
(Population in thousands. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding)

| Age | Population | | | Percent | | |
|-------------------|------------|-------|--------|------------|-------|--------|
| | Both sexes | Male | Female | Both sexes | Male | Female |
| Total, all ages | 13,886 | 7,197 | 6,689 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 0 to 4 years | 2,387 | 1,213 | 1,174 | 17.2 | 16.9 | 17.6 |
| 5 to 9 years | 1,976 | 1,012 | 964 | 14.2 | 14.1 | 14.4 |
| 10 to 14 years | 1,719 | 875 | 844 | 12.4 | 12.2 | 12.6 |
| 15 to 19 years | 1,460 | 751 | 709 | 10.5 | 10.4 | 10.6 |
| 20 to 24 years | 1,255 | 657 | 598 | 9.0 | 9.1 | 8.9 |
| 25 to 29 years | 1,057 | 556 | 501 | 7.6 | 7.7 | 7.5 |
| 30 to 34 years | 883 | 463 | 420 | 6.4 | 6.4 | 6.3 |
| 35 to 39 years | 735 | 386 | 349 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.2 |
| 40 to 44 years | 608 | 320 | 288 | 4.4 | 4.4 | 4.3 |
| 45 to 49 years | 497 | 263 | 235 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.5 |
| 50 to 54 years | 401 | 211 | 190 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 |
| 55 to 59 years | 314 | 166 | 149 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.2 |
| 60 to 64 years | 237 | 126 | 111 | 1.7 | 1.8 | 1.7 |
| 65 to 69 years | 166 | 90 | 77 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.1 |
| 70 to 74 years | 104 | 57 | 47 | 0.7 | 0.8 | 0.7 |
| 75 to 79 years | 57 | 34 | 24 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| 80 years and over | 29 | 19 | 10 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.1 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, unpublished component population projections, medium series.

Table A-13. Projected Population, by Age and Sex: 1995
(Population in thousands. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding)

| Age | Population | | | Percent | | |
|-------------------|------------|--------|--------|------------|-------|--------|
| | Both sexes | Male | Female | Both sexes | Male | Female |
| Total, all ages | 20,561 | 10,608 | 9,953 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 0 to 4 years | 3,375 | 1,716 | 1,659 | 16.4 | 16.2 | 16.7 |
| 5 to 9 years | 2,870 | 1,460 | 1,410 | 14.0 | 13.8 | 14.2 |
| 10 to 14 years | 2,512 | 1,281 | 1,231 | 12.2 | 12.1 | 12.4 |
| 15 to 19 years | 2,203 | 1,135 | 1,068 | 10.7 | 10.7 | 10.7 |
| 20 to 24 years | 1,891 | 971 | 920 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 9.2 |
| 25 to 29 years | 1,581 | 820 | 761 | 7.7 | 7.7 | 7.6 |
| 30 to 34 years | 1,335 | 701 | 634 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.4 |
| 35 to 39 years | 1,111 | 586 | 525 | 5.4 | 5.5 | 5.3 |
| 40 to 44 years | 918 | 483 | 435 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.4 |
| 45 to 49 years | 754 | 395 | 359 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.6 |
| 50 to 54 years | 611 | 319 | 292 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 |
| 55 to 59 years | 481 | 252 | 229 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.3 |
| 60 to 64 years | 362 | 189 | 173 | 1.8 | 1.8 | 1.7 |
| 65 to 69 years | 256 | 134 | 122 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| 70 to 74 years | 164 | 87 | 77 | 0.8 | 0.8 | 0.8 |
| 75 to 79 years | 89 | 49 | 40 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.4 |
| 80 years and over | 48 | 28 | 20 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, unpublished component population projections, medium series.

Table A-15. Projected Population, by Age and Sex: 2005
(Population in thousands. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding)

| Age | Population | | | Percent | | |
|-------------------|------------|--------|--------|------------|-------|--------|
| | Both sexes | Male | Female | Both sexes | Male | Female |
| Total, all ages | 28,129 | 14,479 | 13,651 | 100.0 | 100.0 | 100.0 |
| 0 to 4 years | 4,330 | 2,203 | 2,127 | 15.4 | 15.2 | 15.6 |
| 5 to 9 years | 3,798 | 1,932 | 1,865 | 13.5 | 13.3 | 13.7 |
| 10 to 14 years | 3,374 | 1,719 | 1,655 | 12.0 | 11.9 | 12.1 |
| 15 to 19 years | 2,989 | 1,528 | 1,461 | 10.6 | 10.6 | 10.7 |
| 20 to 24 years | 2,596 | 1,333 | 1,263 | 9.2 | 9.2 | 9.3 |
| 25 to 29 years | 2,243 | 1,164 | 1,079 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 7.9 |
| 30 to 34 years | 1,901 | 984 | 917 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.7 |
| 35 to 39 years | 1,573 | 820 | 752 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.5 |
| 40 to 44 years | 1,313 | 692 | 621 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.5 |
| 45 to 49 years | 1,080 | 570 | 510 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.7 |
| 50 to 54 years | 874 | 458 | 416 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.0 |
| 55 to 59 years | 693 | 361 | 332 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.4 |
| 60 to 64 years | 528 | 274 | 254 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| 65 to 69 years | 378 | 196 | 182 | 1.3 | 1.4 | 1.3 |
| 70 to 74 years | 246 | 128 | 118 | 0.9 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| 75 to 79 years | 137 | 73 | 65 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| 80 years and over | 77 | 43 | 34 | 0.3 | 0.3 | 0.2 |

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, unpublished component population projections, medium series.

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